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***** T O P S E C R E T ***** COPY

OP: IMMED
DE WTE #7429 3491728
D 152235Z DEC 75
FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 40//

TO BREMER/COVEY/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY CONTAINS CODEWORD

VIA BLACK PATCH WH52500

State Dept. review completed

TOHAK 40

DECEMBER 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT
FROM THE SITUATION ROOM
SUBJECT: NOON NOTES

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

FRANCE TO ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING ARMS FACTORY IN EGYPT: IN A JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF PRESIDENT GISCARD DIESTAING'S VISIT TO EGYPT, THE FRENCH AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN ESTABLISHING AN ARMS FACTORY IN EGYPT. THEY ARE TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR A PLANT THAT WILL BE FINANCED BY SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT. NO DETAILS WERE PROVIDED ON THE TYPE OF ARMS THE PLANT WILL PRODUCE OR WHEN CONSTRUCTION IS TO BEGIN. THE FRENCH AND EGYPTIANS HAVE DISCUSSED CO-PRODUCTION OF MIRAGE AIRCRAFT,

CONSTRUCTION OF A MIRAGE ASSEMBLY PLANT WILL BEGIN AT THE AIRCRAFT FACTORY COMPLEX SOUTH OF CAIRO EARLY NEXT YEAR. HOWEVER, THE LACK OF DETAILS IN THE COMMUNIQUE SUGGESTS THAT THE AGREEMENT MAY BE FOR LESS IMPORTANT ARMS SUCH AS THE ALPHA-JET TRAINER OR THE FRANCO-GERMAN HOT ANTI-TANK MISSILE, BOTH OF WHICH WERE RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED IN EGYPT.

25X1

BEIRUT SITUATION: OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT REPORTS TODAY THAT INCREASED FIRING THIS MORNING DOES NOT AUGUR WELL FOR THE NEW CEASE-FIRE, AND EVEN LEBANESE SECURITY OFFICIALS NOTE ITS CHANCES OF SUCCESS AT NO MORE THAN 25 PERCENT. MEANWHILE, BRITISH, CANADIANS, AND AUSTRALIANS ARE SEEKING TO EXPEDITE THE DEPARTURE OF THEIR REMAINING NATIONALS. SPECULATION IS WIDESPREAD THAT SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM IS GEARING UP FOR A VISIT TO BEIRUT IN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS. SUBSTANCE IS ADDED TO THE SPECULATION BY THE DEPARTURE OF LEFTIST SPOKESMAN KAMAL JUMBLATT TODAY FOR CONSULTATIONS IN DAMASCUS. IN OTHER

***** WHSR COMMENT *****

800... SECFILE

RECALLED

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TOR1349/1712Z DTG1132235Z DEC 75

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NEWS, PANAM HAS CANCELED ALL SERVICE TO BEIRUT UNTIL JANUARY

S. HOWEVER, MEA AND TMA ARE MAINTAINING FULL SERVICE AND OTHER AIRLINES, E.G., BRITISH AIRWAYS, ALITALIA, SAS, KLM, LUFTHANSA, AIR FRANCE, ARE OPERATING TO BEIRUT, ALTHOUGH IN SOME CASES AT A REDUCED LEVEL.

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